

Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040



January, 2004

Presidents Riffle

In 1939 this club was founded by, as it says in chapter one of *BACKCASTS*, “a nice bunch of fellows”. That was two years after I was born and at that time I had no intention of being the president of such a renowned group. However, if you go to lunch with a bunch of fishermen for several years, fish with them and party with their friends, they may expect something in return.

The “silver-tongued” gentlemen you selected for the nominating committee have put together a group that is willing to make this club something in which you will want to become more involved. This year we would like you to help us by doing “**ONE-MORE-THING**” for WFFC. I would like all those who have joined in the past five years to review with their sponsors what activities they were interested in when they interviewed.

If you did not attend an outing last year, resolve to attend one in 2004. Our Outdoor Chairman, **Mark DeWitt**, will have many from which to choose. If you were interested in conservation, **Doug Schaad** and **Preston Singletary** can always use your help. There is always a great turnout for the work party events but there are many smaller items to tend to each month. A club of this size should not have to depend on just a few people to handle all the conservation issues that face our rivers and lakes. The youth group under **Kris Kristoferson** will welcome your assistance. Also **Don Simonson** can always use another hand with fly tying or casting classes. Bring more guests to the meetings, however if you cannot, be sure to talk to the guests your fellow members bring. Make each one feel like an “honored” guest. Many of you work behind the scenes and your efforts are appreciated. There are as many ways to improve the WFFC as there are members. Please give this your serious consideration.

We will be reviewing the long range planning which was started by **Greg Crumbaker** to see if we are making progress.

You may see some changes in the format of future meetings. Maybe you will say *if-its-not-broke* don't mess with it. Give us a chance to tweek it. Then tell us what you think.

Your Board of Trustees meets the first Monday of the month here at the College Club. You are welcome to attend. The Board is here to serve you and we look forward to your suggestions.

Jim McRoberts, President

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Steelhead, crab dominate hearing

By Jeffrey P. Mayor

Reprinted from the The News Tribune

Published December 11th, 2003

The steelheaders want an end to catching and keeping the state's wild steelhead. The crabbers want an increase in the recreational crabbing allocation, The boaters - guides and private owners alike - want to kill a proposed prohibition of powerboats on stretches of the Wynoochee and Satsop rivers.

Those were the common themes as dozens of people testified to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission on Saturday in Port Townsend. The commission was hearing comments on the proposed fishing regulation changes for the 2004-2005 season. Saturday was the last day to submit oral or written comments on the proposals. The commission is scheduled to vote on the final recommendations at its meeting in February.

The most visible group was made up of the crabbers, who stood outside the USO Hall meeting site, waving signs reading, "We crab, we fish, we vote." Gary Hulsey, president of the East Jefferson Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers and one of the organizers, said recreational crabbers want their share of the record bounty in the Sound. A 1997 court decision mandates the crab harvest be split 50-50 between the state and Washington's tribes. The issue for the crabbers is the allocation of the state's 50 percent take, Hulsey said. "Right now, we're going through record crab numbers, and the sport season in the last two years has dwindled from months to weeks," Hulsey said. "After you take out the state commercial crabbers and the tribes, we get 15.4 percent of the harvest," the Port Townsend resident said.

Doug Williams of the Department of Fish and Wildlife said the state has traditionally split its portion of the Puget Sound harvest at 65 percent for commercial crabbers and 35 percent for recreational crabbing. "It's just a question of increased pressure on a finite resource," Williams said. Before the meeting and before the commission, Hulsey said the estimated 150,000 recreational crabbers on the Sound far outnumber the 250 commercial crabbers. He also said the value of the recreational industry is valued at \$50 million, outpacing the \$6.3 million value of the state's commercial harvest. "We feel recreational crabbing is a subsistence crabbing, and a Washington State heritage, and that should be the priority," Hulsey said. The protest was informational and not related to a specific proposal. The crab harvest quotas are not set in the fishing regulations. "The split in the non-treaty allocation isn't written in stone anywhere; it's essentially the historical split between commercial and recreational fleets," Williams said. "Up until recently, the split provided for a full-season recreational fishery. It's only been the past few years where sport crabbers had their seasons closed early because they had reached their quota or had gone over. Those early closures have come because of increased participation in the recreational

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Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

(Continued from page 2)

fleet and increased harvest rates," he said.

Release all wild steelhead

For steelhead anglers, the issue was a regulation not among the 104 the state is considering - a statewide rule requiring all wild steelhead to be released. "We can only be described as outraged that this item was not put on this list," said Bill Redmond of the Federation of Fly Fishers' steelhead committee. "The harvest of wild steelhead is still supported by this department on 16 rivers," said Jack Berryman, president of the Wild Steelhead Coalition. "How can you kill the wild steelhead seeds and expect the species to survive?" As part of his testimony, Berryman gave each commissioner a copy of "King of Fish: The Thousand Year Run of Salmon," written by David R. Montgomery, a professor of geological sciences at the University of Washington. Another member of the coalition, Nate Mantua said the state's policies should make ecosystem management the priority, echoing the views of Montgomery in his book. "Management philosophies and principles are geared toward harvest," Mantua said. "Everything in the system is important." Jeff Koenings, director of the department, said he certainly understands the fervor to protect steelhead. "It's one of the icons of the Pacific Northwest. It's like the orca," he said. "It's almost like a religion. There's a real interest in keeping steelheading going." Koenings doesn't agree, however, with the call to eliminate the harvesting of all wild steelhead. "Our position is where you have healthy runs, you should have the opportunity to catch and keep a wild steelhead," the director said. "It's not a case of one size fits all in terms of regulations," Koenings said.

Powerboat prohibition

The proposal that drew the most comments was the one to make it illegal to fish from a boat with a motor on the Wynoochee River above the city of Aberdeen's water intake dam and on the Satsop River and Middle Fork Satsop above the confluence of the East and West forks. Albert Carter, a Grays Harbor County commissioner, said that group has gone on record opposing the closure. "This will have a financial impact on not only guides but the county itself," Carter

said. "This seems to be an issue between user groups."

Also on the table

Among the 104 rule changes being considered by the commission are:

Keeping salmon and steelhead anglers from taking their catch out of the water if anglers are required to release the fish.

A ban on the use of treble hooks in Marine Areas 1-13.

Extending the closed area for catch-and-release fishing on over-sized sturgeon in the Columbia River, and requiring tags for sturgeon.

What's next

Now until January: Department of Fish and Wildlife staff will review the oral and written comments and consider changes in the proposed rule changes for the 2004-2005 fishing season.

Feb. 6-7: The commission will vote on the proposed rules at its meeting in Olympia.

May 1: New rules will take effect.



2004 Creel Notes Submission Closings

Here are the drop dead dates for any submissions to the Creel Notes. Please send them via: email: miyawaki@iswnet.com

snail mail: Leland Miyawaki
12215 SE 261st St.
Kent, WA 98030

January 13	July 13
February 10	August 10
March 9	September 14
April 13	October 12
May 11	November 9
June 8	December 14

Northwest Fishing History

Members who have an interest in the rich history of fishing in the Pacific Northwest will enjoy this website: <http://users.infoconex.com/ramrod/PNFGYintropg.htm>

It is the baby of Don Edge, who has a soft spot for the "old days" of fishing in the Seattle area when there were more tackle shops and more media coverage of fishing and hunting. Don has been collecting samples of vintage fishing guidebooks, stories, news clippings, etc.

His website is still a work in progress but is already a real beauty. I'm sure Don could use more information (the kind our "old timers" have) for his site. The next thing going up will be partial scans of a 1937 Warshal's mail order catalog (15 pages of fishing gear) and a 1931 Shoft's catalog with a couple of pages showing their flies (that was all they sold back then). Drop in for a nostalgic visit.

A big "Thank You" to our Supporters!

The WFFC would like to publicly thank those businesses that supported our Holiday Auction and Raffle last month. Without them we wouldn't have had nearly as successful event as we did.

Orvis (Bellevue)
Patrick's Fly Shop
Avid Angler
The Rogue Angler
Sage
Creekside Angling Company
Cabela's
Kaufmann's Streamborn
Ex Officio
Simms
Eliguk Lake Lodge
Ruby Springs Lodge
Corbett Lake Country Inn
Topwater Charters
Anglers Sportgroup
Springbrook/Temple Fork
Rods
Firesteed Vineyards
Estlow Fly Fishing Co.
Frank Amato Publications
Rio Products
Al Beatty Fishing Products
Jim Teeny
Tini Bigs
Spirit River
Oasis
Skip Brunhauer

And of course, thanks to all WFFC members who donated goods, art, cash, and time. The funds we raised will be used to continue the important work that we do. Cheers!

AWARD PRESENTATIONS HIGHLIGHT JANUARY PROGRAM

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

January is Awards Month at WFFC, when we take time to recognize Club members or other flyfishers who have distinguished themselves through service

to the Club and the community. Here is a brief description of the primary Club Awards:

Empty Creel Award, presented to a member for exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare of the Club.

Tommy Brayshaw Award, presented to a member for distinctive and meritorious contribution to the general community through furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Club.

Andy Award, presented to a member who has "suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy's Law".

Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsmanship Award, presented to a flyfisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing.

There will also be presentations of individual and team awards to Club members who distinguished themselves at the 2003 Fly Casting Expo. The Awards Committee reserves the right to present other Awards, laudatory or humorous, as appropriate.



Editor's Notes

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

The January meeting has traditionally been a coat and tie affair, continuing the holiday dinner theme.

Dues are payable now and according to the By-Laws Article III Section 5. A: *Anyone not having paid by March 1, 2004 will delinquent and dropped from the roster.*

This exchange took place recently on [washingtonfly-fishing.com](http://www.washingtonfly-fishing.com). The reply is from the venerable Preston Singletary.

Question: I've been trying to figure out what kind of indicators are best for steelheading. I have heard of using corkies but if you are using heavy flies with dumbell eyes and lead would'nt that pull the corkie under? I looked at the biggest size corkie I could find and it seemed like it would be to small. Also what kinds of fly's are you guys using when side drifting? I have heard about using Kaufmans stonefly nymphs with rubber legs and glow balls weighted, anything else out

Answer: Use one of those floats that the gear guys use, then you can go to a proper jig and, dispensing with the fly

rod and reel entirely, go with a baitcasting or spinning outfit.

Resident Coho Survey

Andy Appleby is asking that everyone who encounters our "resident" coho, now about 8-10 inches, to report sightings and catches to:

Andy Appleby
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Phone: (360) 902-2663
Email: appleaea@dfw.wa.gov

Please include:

Date:

Specific location:

Size of fish:

Behavior of fish: (e.g., feeding near beach, schooling in open water, etc.) A general statement about numbers encountered would be helpful, e.g., just a few, small school, big school, and the like)

2004 FLY CASTING CLASSES

Advanced Casting Class

Date: Wed. April 7th 2004
Duration: 4 weeks
Location: Green Lake casting pier
Time: 6:30 PM till dusk
Cost: \$40.00
Limit is 10 students. Registration is required
To register call: **Don Simonson**, 206-932-4925, or **Bob Birkner**, 206-542-4623

Beginning Casting Class

Date: Thur. April 8th 2004
Duration: 8 weeks
Location: Green Lake casting

pier

Time: 6:30 PM till dusk

Cost: \$35.00

Limit is 50 students. Registration is required. To register call: **Don Simonson**, 206-932-4925, or **Bob Birkner**, 206-542-4623

Fly Tier's Round Table

January Meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2004, 7 to 9 PM,

Come and help replenish the Ghilly's supply of club flies for the new member initiation packages. We need at least a couple of dozen. You can tie any fly you want. You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas.

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and SE 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

If you have any questions on directions contact **Pete Baird** or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

Dick Brening

For Sale Sage Rplxi's

890-3 & 1090-3 \$325 ea.
1290-3 & 1489-3 \$350 ea.
All are in perfect condition.

Call or e-mail Capt. Keith flymooch@aol.com
(206) 283-6680

Environmental Workshop Report

By Jim McRoberts

On January 11, 2004, I attended the ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP at REI. It was sponsored by *Washington Environmental Council*, (WFFC is a member) and several other WFFC affiliated organizations, CELP, American Rivers and Audubon of Washington. There were a total of fifteen organizations involved. This was meant, as preparation for the CITIZENS LOBBY DAY, which will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2004 in Olympia.

The president of WEC opened with a brief account of the state of environmental politics in the upcoming legislative session, a short session of only 60 days. It was scheduled to start January 12th. He commented that we have a tough time in the senate, which passed a bad water bill that eliminates some of the state's water quality authority. We have a little better time with the house even though they helped pass another bad water bill that prioritizes utility water use over stream flows.

The Executive Director of Washington Conservation Voters spoke about the need to keep conservation issues in a non-partisan or bi-partisan status. This helps, at least in this state, to receive support from both parties. The state is expecting a very large turnout, as much as 80%, this election year because of our National Senate race and the presidential race.

There was a legislative panel consisting of:

Senator Adam Kline D	37 th District
Senator Debbie Regala D	27 th
Representative Mike Cooper D	21 st
Representative Hans Dunshee D	44 th
Representative Fred Jarrett R	41 st
Representative Toby Nixon R	45 th
Representative Skip Priest R	30 th

Their main input was – short session with very little money available means a tough time to advance any big agenda items. They also said that a personal phone call

or personalized email gets their attention. Form letters/emails are like Spam to them!

The 2004 Priorities for the Conservation community are:

- 1. **Water** – ensuring streamflow protection
- 2. **Energy** – promoting efficient and renewable energy policy
- 3. **Forestry** – managing state forests sustainably
- 4. **Toxics** – stopping toxic pollution through PBT funding
- 5. **No Rollbacks** – prevent legislation that will reduce past successes

Please view the following websites for further and more detailed information:

<http://www.wecprotects.org/state/update.cfm>.

www.amrivers.org

<http://wa.audubon.org/new/audubon/>
www.celp.org

www.pugetsound.org

www.tncwashington.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE INFLATION CONTROL BUREAU

The price for dinner beginning with our January Awards Dinner will be raised to \$21.

UNDERSTANDING THE CAST

ARTICLE #3

(Articles 1 & 2 appeared in previous Creel Notes)

Now that we understand the “what” and the “why” of our three tasks to produce a nice narrow loop in our fly line, lets now investigate the “how”.

Slack can be removed from the fly line prior to the cast in the following ways.

- When casting over water just execute a normal roll cast followed by the pickup.
- When casting on grass either strip line in or simple back up to remove the slack.

Moving the rod tip in a straight line path will require our hand, arm, and shoulder to execute a straight path. Visualize the hypotenuse of a right triangle. That’s the path we want the rod tip to take. To accomplish this we should start with the rod tip pointed down at the fly line, now begin lifting and bending the elbow **without any bending of the wrist.** Continue this motion to a stop with the hand at a vertical position approximately even with your ear. I recommend the exercise of touching your ear by bending and raising your elbow with no wrist bending. The motion for the forward cast would be just the opposite. Starting at vertical with the elbow raised come forward by lowering and unbending the elbow stopping approximately 45 degrees or 10:30 o’clock.

To progressively accelerate the rod to an abrupt stop I strongly recommend the caster audibly repeat a phrase such as; kkkkeeerrr – wwwoommP, ppppooowweerrr – sssnnnaaP, or sssssttttttooooooP. (Kerwoomp - Powersnap - Stop). This will condition your mind to communicate with your body muscles to execute a motion start-

ing slow, ever increasing to an abrupt stop. When executing the abrupt stop I suggest the caster push on the thumb, or squeeze the cork handle to emphasize the abruptness of the stop.

This concludes my initial three articles. I am prepared to continue with follow on articles on critiquing the cast, practice objectives, etc. For me to continue I need your feedback so please call me 206-932-4925, or e-mail me at donjoans@seanet.com with your thoughts. Also I solicit any suggestions on casting topics you would like discussed. No responses will be assumed as a “no” vote for future articles.

Don Simonson

FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor

2003's New Members

We added some great new members in 2003, and we have some great candidates queued up already for 2004. It should be an exciting year for our membership! Here is the class of 2003:

Randall Bryett
Greg Bush
Doug Donaldson
John Gravendyk
John Huey
Craig Koeppler
Jim Macdonald
Jim Morrison
Sean Overman
Steve Sunich
Dave Walsh

Don't forget to say hello to any and all new faces at the next meeting!



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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here

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St.

The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM

THIS MONTH IS OUR AWARDS DINNER. DON'T MISS THE HONORING OF OUR EXCEPTIONAL MEMBERS.

MORE INFORMATION INSIDE.